

Pachycephala platani platani (Blasius), 1 March 1888; over *P. whiteheadi* (Sharpe), April 1888.

Anaimos platani platani (Blasius), 12 February 1888; over *A. johannae* (Sharpe), April 1888.

Prioniturus discurus platenae Blasius, 12 February 1888; over *P. cyaneiceps* Sharpe, April 1888.—A. L. RAND, *Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago 5, Illinois*.

Is the Starling Moving into Southern Florida?—The spread of *Sturnus vulgaris* in the United States has, of course, been widely commented on. Its rather recent appearance in the far western states of California and Oregon is known now to be apparently conclusive of further increase. The following comments concern one of the very few localities in the East which, hitherto, has seemed free of the species. This is southern Florida from about a line drawn from Tampa through Orlando to Titusville. Though having been established north of this line for years, any occurrence south of it, and particularly much south of it, was abnormal.

I have kept a close watch on this matter, for my work with the National Audubon Society has necessitated my presence in southern Florida through most of every winter, as well as other months, since 1936. I have been more particularly concerned with the regions known as the Kissimmee Prairie, the Everglades, and the Keys. The conduction of the Audubon Wildlife Tours, out of Okeechobee, began in 1940, and from early January to April each year, I am in the field four days each week in the prairie counties of Okeechobee, Highlands, Osceola, and Glades. One of the outstanding features of birdlife in this region has been the practically complete absence of the Starling.

In the very first season of these Tours (1940) and in highly unseasonal cold weather, a single Starling was noted near Brighton, Highlands County, near the Seminole Indian Reservation. This was in January of that year. Not another bird was seen in the entire area for the next thirteen years! On February 8, 1953, two Starlings were seen on telephone wires on the outskirts of Okeechobee, and on the tenth of that month, two more in another part of town, though these may possibly have been the same birds.

In the 1954 season, Starlings were more numerous in southern Florida. On January 22, 1954, a flock of between 25 and 30 birds was seen near Brighton (17 miles west of Okeechobee) by William Wylie, my assistant on the Audubon Tours. On February 11, 1954, four Starlings were seen at the southern city limits of Okeechobee, apparently investigating a cavity at the top of a dead Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*). They were watched by William Wylie, John Henry Dick, the writer, and his wife. On February 14, 1954, two small flocks were seen near the Indian Prairie Canal, Glades County, 17 miles SW of Okeechobee, by Louis A. Stimson of Miami.

While all of these observations surely indicate a penetration of unprecedented proportions, despite small numbers thus far, it does not cover extreme south Florida. Lake Okeechobee is, roughly, some two hundred miles north of Cape Sable. However, the Starling has now been observed as far south in Florida as it can possibly get, the Dry Tortugas! On November 21 and 22, 1952, one was watched by Douglas Ford and Lauri and John DeWeese, the latter Superintendent of the Fort Jefferson National Monument. The observation was made on Garden Key. In late October of 1953, another single Starling was watched "for several days" on Garden Key by the DeWeeses. Therefore this species has now been observed as far south in the United States as is possible and is moving into one of the last sections of the eastern part of the country.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *National Audubon Society, Charleston 50, S. C.*